

REMARKS

Amendments to the specification are made to correct errors in diction and a typographical error concerning the identity of element 32 in the drawing figures. No new matter has been introduced.

The claims have been amended to meet the claim objections in the Office Action concerning antecedent basis for the “at least one substantially rigid positioning member.”

Figure 1 has been amended per the requirement of the Office Action to designate the hydraulic coupling illustrated therein as “Prior Art.”

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 9 under §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,015,016 (“Smith016”). The Office Action contends that Smith016 in Figure 1 “shows an undersea hydraulic coupling member having a tail 74, at least one substantially rigid positioning member 26 associated with the tail, wherein the substantially rigid positioning member is in contact with the inner bore of a manifold plate when the tail is inserted through the manifold plate.”

The Office Action has misconstrued Applicant’s prior patent (Smith016). Element 74 of Smith016 is the outer probe wall of the male coupling member 13. [see col. 7; lines 5-57] During make up of the coupling, the probe is inserted into the receiving chamber of the female member. It does not contact the inner bore of the manifold plate at any time. See Figures 4 – 6.

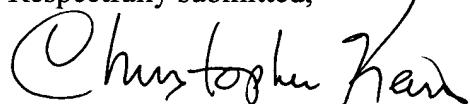
Smith016 discloses an hydraulic coupling wherein the male and female members are affixed to their respective manifold plates by means of threaded connections. “Threads 73 may be added to the external surface to facilitate attachment to a coupling manifold, as explained above, or the external surface may be machined smooth and the probe 13 may be attached to the manifold by means of set screws (not shown).” [col. 7; lines 8-12]

This requires that the manifold plate be threaded either on its inner bore surfaces or set screw passages. Applicant's invention avoids this complication.

The Office Action further contends that element 26 in Smith016 is a "substantially rigid positioning member." However, element 26 is actually an annular or axial soft seal within sleeve member 22 of female member 14. [col. 4; lines 24-27] This axial soft seal does not contact the inner bore of the manifold plate as required by the claims of the subject application. See, e.g., Figure 5 of Smith016 for the position of axial soft seal 26.

For the reasons stated above, it is submitted that Smith016 does not anticipate the claims of the subject application. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Rebecca Ginn

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Figure 1, the annotation "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: 1 (one) Replacement Sheet(s)
1 (one) Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Changes

Replacement Sheet

FIG. 1